1	2
14.	13th May 2009
15.	14th May 2009
16.	15th May 2009
17.	18th May 2009
18.	19th May 2009
19.	20th May 2009
20.	21st May 2009
21.	22 May 2009
22.	25th May 2009
23.	26th May 2009

Panchayat Sanchar Seva Yojana

2328. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages covered under the Panchayat Sanchar Seva Yojana in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of villages yet to be covered by this yojana, State-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that the yojana is not giving desired result in rural areas;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to make the yojana successful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) Panchayat Sanchar Seva Kendras (PSSKs) are opened only in villages with Panchayats. At present, there are 4962 PSSKs in the country (as on 31.3.2009). State/Circle-wise details are given in the Statement. (*See* below)

(b) Many of the villages are covered by either the Branch Post Offices (Bos) or where Bos do not justify by the PSSKs. PSSKs are opened only on initiation of proposals by duly elected Gram Panchayats subject further to fulfilment of stipulated norms. No new PSSKs have been opened during last six years due to non-receipt of justified proposals and non-fulfilment of norms.

(c) The scheme was aimed at augmenting postal network in rural areas. But most PSSKs have been found to be financially non-viable and have not shown desired results after their establishment.

(d) Alternate modes of communication are now available. Therefore, there is fall in demand for postage stamps/stationery and sale proceeds of most PSSKs are low. Further,

PSSK agents do not take interest in the work and Gram Panchayats do not exercise effective control and supervision over them.

(e) Continuous monitoring of PSSKs is done during inspections and field visits by the officers of the Department of Posts.

Statement

Number of Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras as on 31-3-2009

Sl.No.	Circles	No. of PSSKs
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	116
2.	Assam	191
3.	Bihar	1073
4.	Chhattisgarh	218
5.	Delhi	0
6.	Gujarat	16
6.1.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0
6.2.	Daman and Diu	0
7.	Haryana	239
8.	Himachal Pradesh	126
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	30
10.	Jharkhand	261
11.	Karnataka	13
12.	Kerala	0
12.1	Lakshadweep	0
12.2	Mahe	0
13.	Madhya Pradesh	252
14.	Maharashtra	502
14.1	Goa	6
15.	North East	
15.1	Arunachal Pradesh	8
15.2	Manipur	16

1	2	3
15.3	Meghalaya	0
15.4	Mizoram	19
15.5	Nagaland	7
15.6	Tripura	79
16.	Orissa	205
17.	Punjab	11
17.1	Chandigarh	0
18.	Rajasthan	153
19.	Tamil Nadu	90
19.1	Pondicherry	0
20.	Uttarakhand	128
21.	Uttar Pradesh	1194
22.	West Bengal	6
22.1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2
22.2	Sikkim	1
	TOTAL	4962

Scheme not introduced in Delhi and Kerala Circle

Branch Post Offices in rural areas of Maharashtra

2329. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to open branch post offices in rural areas of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any target has been fixed in Eleventh Five Year Plan for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) Yes, Sir. A target of opening of 10 Branch Post Offices (BOs) has been allotted to Maharashtra Circle.

(b) A target for opening of 10 Branch Post Offices has been allotted to Maharashtra Circle during 2009-10 and that too only on relocation basis and without incurring any expenditure.